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Westminster, March 10.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, the Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most Gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAving received from our good Brother and Ally the Most Christian King repeated Advices, that an Invasion will suddenly be attempted from Spain against my Dominions, in favour of the Pretender to my Crown, I have judged it convenient to make you acquainted with it, and shall on my Part take all the necessary Measures to defeat the Designs of our Enemies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

This Attempt, if it proceed must engage me in some further Expences by Sea and Land, than Provision has been made for. I must therefore recommend it to you that I be enabled in such Manner as you shall judge convenient to make the necessary Dispositions for our Security; and you may depend upon it, that I shall upon this and all Occasions have as much Regard to the Ease of my People, as shall be consistent with their Safety.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The many Proofs I have had of the Affection and Loyalty of this Parliament, leave me no Room to doubt of your steady and vigorous Perseverance in support of my Person and Government upon this Occasion.

Lisbon, March 7. N. S. By Letters from Madrid of the 17th of the last Month, we received an Account that a Squadron of 7 Men of War was fitting out at Cadiz to be commanded by Admiral Serrano, who upon his Arrival with the last Fleet from New Spain had been baniſh'd to Ceuta, but was since pardoned, and was come to Cadiz to hasten the fitting out of the said Squadron; that there were about 4000 Troops in a Readiness to be imbarked, and that there was Reason to believe these Preparations were made against England, because the English Consul at Corunna had, by an Order from Court above three Weeks before been removed to a Place 20 Leagues distant from the Sea, which looked as if it had been on Purpose to keep him ignorant of these Preparations, which together with the Design of them, were concealed with all possible Care; and to confirm this Suspicion, the late of Duke of Ormond, who, during his Stay at Valladolid, had been observed to be very busy in some private Transaction, arrived at Madrid the 14th, and left that Place the 16th, and was said to be gone to Corunna. These Letters added, that the Hermione Frigate, having taken in five Months Provisions, was sailed from Cadiz, the Commander having his Orders sealed up, which he was not to open till such time as he should be 40 Leagues out at Sea. We have since received further Accounts from Madrid of the 24th past which say, that the late Duke of Ormond went on board the Ship Hermione before mentioned; and that the Troops designed for the secret Expedition were actually embarking on board 30 Transport Ships, which were to be convoyed by seven Men of War, and amounted to 4000 Foot and 900 Horse, most of them dismounted; that they carried with them a great Number of spare Arms, with a Quantity of Ammunition and some Artillery.

Marseilles, Feb. 26. A Ship belonging to this Port came in here this Morning which sailed from Cadiz 11 Days ago, the Master reports, that he was obliged to come away by stealth, Orders having been given to seize all the Merchant Ships, in order to imploy them in transporting a Body of Troops with some Ammunition and Artillery for some, Expedition, which was kept very secret; and that when he came away they had in this Manner got together about 50 Transport Ships, which were to be convoyed by seven or eight Men of War.

St. Malo, March 3. We have Advice from Cadiz by a Ship that came from thence to Brest in 11 Days, that eight Ships of War were fitting out there, with between 40 and 50 Transport-Ships that were to be employed in carrying of Troops, Artillery and Ammunition for some Expedition that was kept secret.

Paris, March 15. Our freshest Advices from Spain say, that the late Duke of Ormond took his Leave of that Court the 14th of the last Month, and set out from Madrid the next Day for Cadiz; that Eight Men of War, and about 50 Transport Ships, were fitted out in that Port, on board which 13 Battallions and a Regiment of Dragoons, all or most of them Irish, were to embark, and were to carry with them a great Number of Spare Arms, and some Artillery and Ammunition; that those Preparations were in such Forwardness, that this Fleet would be ready to put to Sea by the 5th or 6th Instant; and that the late Duke of Ormond was to command those Forces, which were designed to attempt an Invasion in Great Britain. These Advices add, that several French Merchant Ships that were at Cadiz, had been detained by Force to be employed in that Service; We have an Account from Languedoc and Guienne, that several Highlanders, and others known to be in the Pretender's Interest, who were in those Parts, departed from thence on a sudden, and it was not known whither they were gone; but they are supposed to be gone to Spain, in order to be employed in this Expedition. We have yet no certain Account of the Pretender; they write from Rome, that at his Departure from thence he left a kind of Manifesto intimating, that not thinking himself